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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Forest Insect Investigations

PINE BARK APHID

An infestation of the pine bark aphid (Pinus strobi (Htg.)) can be recognized by spots or patches of white cottony material on the smoother bark of the trunks and branches. White pine is most commonly attacked, although Scotch and Austrian and possibly other pines are occasionally infested throughout the East. Continued heavy infestations probably weaken the trees, and trees in poor vigor may suffer considerably from these small insects sucking the sap. The aphids presumably pass the winter under the cottony masses. At least three generations develop during the season, the young usually hatching in the latter part of May, the first half of July, and in August. The aphids are very small, oval, and their bodies are covered with a white waxy secretion, which is the white material observed on the bark.

Treatment.-- Spray with a miscible oil or oil emulsion in the spring before the buds open. When the young are hatching, a nicotine sulfate and soap solution or a combination of white-oil emulsion and nicotine may be used, such as the formulation given below.

1/2 pint white oil emulsion (Volck or Verdol type)
1/4 pound soap or 1 1/2 cupfuls of flakes
4 teaspoonfuls nicotine sulfate
3-1/4 gallons water

These sprays should be applied with considerable force so as to wet the bodies of the insects protected by the cottony material. Many of the insects can be washed off with a strong stream of water. Washing the trees a day or two before spraying might improve the results. On small trees, scrubbing with a brush and soapy water would no doubt give good control.





